

In July of 2004, Congress declared the actions that were taking place in Darfur, Sudan genocide. Two months later, the administration issued a report which reached the same conclusion. In the 17 months since then, little has changed for the people of Darfur. Two million people have been chased from their homes, 3 million rely on international aid, and over 200,000 are refugees in Chad.

The security situation in Darfur remains dire. The Secretary General and other United Nations officials have warned that the region is on the verge of chaos. In parts of Darfur, the U.N. and other aid agencies have had to pull back staff.

The U.N., led by the United States, has taken the first step towards authorizing a peacekeeping force, but it could be a year from now—a year—before such a force completely deploys.

What are the men, women and children of Darfur supposed to do in the meantime? Hope for the best? Keep their fingers crossed that they are not attacked by the janjaweed, or caught in the cross-fire between the government and rebel forces?

Some believe that the crisis in Darfur is over. All the violence, these folks argue, is small scale, and residual in nature. They argue that the African Union successfully halted the killing of innocent civilians. Maybe that is why the administration has no concrete plan to improve the security situation in Darfur until the U.N. can get on the ground.

What I would say to those who argue that the worst is over is this: over the course of the last 2 years, the government of Sudan and its surrogates killed as many as 400,000 people and drove one third of the population of Darfur off their land. Two million people remain in internally displaced or refugee camps. Attacks continue. It may be true that they are not as systematic as they were 6 months or a year ago, but I submit to you that it is not because the African Union stopped the attacks. It is because systematic attacks are no longer necessary for the government to continue to terrorize civilians. It is because as many as 400,000 people already are dead, and hundreds if not thousands of villages have already been destroyed. The attacks may be less systematic, but they are not over. And it does not make them less horrific.

I traveled to the Chad-Sudan border in May of 2005. One of the sector commanders from the African Union force came across the border to meet with me. He told me point blank, that he had neither the manpower, the equipment nor the mandate to stop attacks on civilians. But we in the west have the manpower and the equipment—and, if the political will is there, we can secure the right mandate. And that is why we must help.

This resolution calls for the President to provide such help through NATO. It calls on the President to propose that NATO get involved by send-

ing troops to Darfur to support the African Union until the United Nations can get on the ground, and considering how NATO can enforce a no-fly zone in Darfur. The resolution calls on NATO to begin planning in anticipation of such a mission.

Let me be clear about what I am not proposing in this resolution. I am not proposing a third peacekeeping mission be sent to Darfur. I am suggesting that NATO increase the support it is already lending to the African Union with a small number of fully equipped troops to help with command and control, communications, and dissemination of intelligence, on the ground. And I am proposing that these troops stay in Darfur only until the U.N. force has deployed all of its troops. My colleagues should also note that the resolution urges the Security Council to authorize a Chapter VII mission for Darfur—one with an adequate number of well-trained and equipped soldiers—as quickly as possible, so that NATO troops are not engaged in an open ended mission.

The world watched nearly a million people get slaughtered in Rwanda 12 years ago this April. We did nothing. But I'd like to think that we learned from that mistake. We did act in Bosnia, and then in Kosovo, to stop ethnic cleansing. Neither mission was popular. But President Bill Clinton took decisive action because the consequences of inaction were simply too high: We could not stand by and allow Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and his thugs to fill up more mass graves. We cannot fail to take action in Darfur as well.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2320

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill for a second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2320) to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session; provided

further that the Commerce Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations: from the Commerce Committee, Coast Guard nominations PN 1299; and from the Foreign Relations Committee, Richard Boucher, PN 1167; further that the Senate proceed to their consideration en bloc.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, with the motions to reconsider laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment to the grades indicated in the United States Coast Guard under title 14, U.S.C., section 211:

To be lieutenant

Michael W. Albert, 0000
David J. Aldous, 0000
Leonard H. Allen, 0000
David M. Alvarez, 0000
Samuel L. Alvord, 0000
David F. Ambos, 0000
Jason K. Appleberry, 0000
Segundo J. Argudo, 0000
Reginald I. Baird, 0000
Ryan A. Barone, 0000
Scott P. Barton, 0000
Anne M. Becker, 0000
Robert W. Bilbo, 0000
Michael L. Bowman, 0000
Lance J. Brant, 0000
Richard J. Burke, 0000
Victor G. Buskirk, 0000
Andres Camargo, 0000
Donald B. Campbell, 0000
James D. Cannon, 0000
Christy S. Casey, 0000
Justin M. Cassell, 0000
John T. Catanzaro, 0000
Robert S. Clarke, 0000
Paul J. Coleman, 0000
Jeffrey M. Collins, 0000
Ross E. Comer, 0000
Carlos M. Crespo, 0000
Paul J. Crookshank, 0000
Martin J. Dietsch, 0000
Brian J. Donahue, 0000
William R. Dunbar, 0000
Bryan L. Dunlap, 0000
Charles Engbring, 0000
Tom Engbring, 0000
Jay S. Fair, 0000
Paul A. Fawcett, 0000
Krystyon N. Finch, 0000
Jason F. Frank, 0000
Frank A. Fusco, 0000
Carlos F. Gavilanes, 0000
Greg S. Gedemer, 0000
Aaron G. Green, 0000
Catharine D. Gross, 0000
Anthony D. Guild, 0000
Mark A. Haag, 0000
Christopher E. Haley, 0000
Joy E. Hall, 0000
Robert P. Hill, 0000
Frank L. Hinson, 0000
Giles C. Hoback III, 0000
Matthew M. Hobbie, 0000
Robert E. Hollinger, 0000
Timothy D. Howard, 0000
Thomas P. Hrynshyn, 0000
Donald K. Isom, 0000
Jack W. Jackson, 0000

Thomas A. Jacobson, 0000
 Weston R. James, 0000
 Douglas A. Jannusch, 0000
 John W. Kaser, 0000
 Richard J. Kavanaugh, 0000
 Tonya G. Kelley, 0000
 Raymond S. Kingsley, 0000
 Andrew C. Kirkpatrick, 0000
 Shawn A. Lansing, 0000
 Patrick J. Lee, 0000
 Joseph J. Leonard, 0000
 John R. Luff, 0000
 Ezekiel J. Lyons, 0000
 Richard A. Mach, 0000
 Steven D. Mahany, 0000
 Robert J. Manning, 0000
 Charles Marino, 0000
 Ronaydee M. Marquez, 0000
 Timothy R. Martin, 0000
 Stephen Matadobra, 0000
 James J. Mazel, 0000
 Brian K. McCaul, 0000
 James M. McIay, 0000
 Kerri W. Merklin, 0000
 Robert A. Moomaw, 0000
 David J. Moore, 0000
 Ferdinand Morales, 0000
 Michael J. Munnerlyn, 0000
 John R. Nims, 0000
 Jessica E. Noel, 0000
 Bryan K. Oditt, 0000
 David M. Otani, 0000
 Hector M. Pacheco, 0000
 Charles N. Parham, 0000
 Michael L. Parker, 0000
 Jeffrey C. Peterson, 0000
 Jose L. Ramirez, 0000
 Christian P. Rigney, 0000
 Justo E. Rivera, 0000
 David J. Roberts, 0000
 Richard D. Russell, 0000
 Paul T. Sanger, 0000
 Brent R. Schmadeke, 0000
 William A. Schrade, 0000
 John R. Scott, 0000
 Heather D. Skowron, 0000
 Samuel L. Slay, 0000
 Bradley J. Smith, 0000
 Jason S. Smith, 0000
 Lawrence W. Sohl, 0000
 Lane A. Solak, 0000
 Gabriel J. Somma, 0000
 Lane G. Steffenhagen, 0000
 Thomas M. Stokes, 0000
 John R. Strasburg, 0000
 Roderick A. Stroud, 0000
 Jonathan E. Sullivan, 0000
 Carol M. Swinson, 0000
 John K. Titchen, 0000
 Terry R. Trelford, 0000
 Shaun T. Vaccaro, 0000
 Thomas C. Vaughn, 0000
 Stephen E. West, 0000
 Todd C. Wiggen, 0000
 Charles Wojaczyk, 0000
 Marcus P. Wong, 0000
 Maurice S. York, 0000
 Steven M. Youde, 0000
 Jacob A. Zalewski, 0000
 Peter J. Zauner, 0000
 Peter E. Zohimsky, 0000

To be lieutenant junior grade

Regina E. Adams, 0000
 Jereme M. Altendorf, 0000
 Walner W. Alvarez, 0000
 Jennifer J. Andrew, 0000
 Edward S. Aponte, 0000
 Michael P. Attanasio, 0000
 Geoffrey M. Barela, 0000
 Ellen P. Batt, 0000
 James R. Bendle, 0000
 Jeffrey S. Bogdanovich, 0000
 Thomas R. Bolin, 0000
 Jeffrey M. Bolling, 0000
 Barnaby W. Bosanquet, 0000
 Devon S. Brennan, 0000
 Collin R. Bronson, 0000

Melanie A. Burnham, 0000
 Matthew A. Calvert, 0000
 Manuel B. Camargo, 0000
 James J. Camp, 0000
 Taylor J. Carlisle, 0000
 Luis O. Carmona, 0000
 Christopher L. Carter, 0000
 Timothy S. Casares, 0000
 Xochitl L. Castaneda, 0000
 Eric W. Chang, 0000
 David M. Coburn, 0000
 Harlan J. Copeland, 0000
 Trevor C. Cowan, 0000
 Robert H. Creigh, 0000
 Michael Crowe, 0000
 Dorain M. Dailey, 0000
 Willy J. Dasal, 0000
 Ali W. Davis, 0000
 Kelvin J. Davis, 0000
 John F. Dewey, 0000
 Adam H. Drews, 0000
 Glen R. Enzfelder, 0000
 Bryan M. Estell, 0000
 Kerry A. Feltner, 0000
 Alan J. Fitzgerald, 0000
 Robert F. Fitzgerald, 0000
 David L. Flanders, 0000
 Angelique Flood, 0000
 Jason S. Franz, 0000
 Brett A. Freels, 0000
 Tracy D. Funck, 0000
 Matthew A. Gabbianelli, 0000
 Oscar R. Galvez, 0000
 Lisa L. Garcez, 0000
 Joseph S. Giammanco, 0000
 Erin K. Gilson, 0000
 Christopher L. Grooms, 0000
 Danielle R. Hartley, 0000
 James R. Herrera, 0000
 Jason D. Hetherington, 0000
 Neal D. Hinkel, 0000
 Crist M. Holveck, 0000
 Jason A. Hopkins, 0000
 Kenneth C. Jones, 0000
 Thomas D. Jones, 0000
 Luann J. Kehlenbach, 0000
 Steven A. Koch, 0000
 Matthew R. Kolodica, 0000
 Duane W. Lemmon, 0000
 Preston O. Logan, 0000
 Jeffrey D. Lynch, 0000
 Jonathan M. Mangum, 0000
 Ezra L. Manuel, 0000
 Arthur P. Martin, 0000
 Matthew K. Matsuoka, 0000
 Doreen McCarthy, 0000
 Kevin J. McDonald, 0000
 Stacy L. McNeer, 0000
 John M. McWilliams, 0000
 Nathan S. Menefee, 0000
 Matthew J. Meskun, 0000
 Anthony R. Migliorini, 0000
 Douglas J. Miller, 0000
 Robert S. Morris, 0000
 Merridith R. Morrison, 0000
 Ernesto Muniztirado, 0000
 Walter L. Ouzts, 0000
 John G. Peterson, 0000
 Todd P. Porter, 0000
 Beau G. Powers, 0000
 Kevin J. Rapp, 0000
 Joseph R. Raymond, 0000
 Jeffrey H. Rubini, 0000
 Michael K. Saffold, 0000
 Tanya C. Saunders, 0000
 Karey J. Sayre, 0000
 Ray A. Slapkunas, 0000
 Adam C. Spencer, 0000
 Jon D. Stewart, 0000
 Mary W. Stewart, 0000
 Calvin Summers, 0000
 Nicholas J. Tabori, 0000
 Danny M. Tcheng, 0000
 Miguel E. Torrez, 0000
 Otis C. Travers, 0000
 Douglas M. Trent, 0000
 Kristofer A. Tsairis, 0000
 Christopher B. Tuckey, 0000

Matthew D. Vanderbeck, 0000
 Kou Vang, 0000
 Kraig L. Washington, 0000
 Matthew G. Weber, 0000
 Justin L. Westmiller, 0000
 Kevin S. Wilkinson, 0000
 Shay R. Williams, 0000
 Timothy J. Williams, 0000
 Christopher Wolfer, 0000
 John D. Wood, 0000
 Brett R. Workman, 0000
 Warren N. Wright, 0000
 Ben Wroblewski, 0000
 Damian N. Yemma, 0000
 Christopher J. Young, 0000

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Richard A. Boucher, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

SIGNING AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader and the senior Senator from Virginia be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or inter-parliamentary conferences authorized by law, by current action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 345, the adjournment resolution; provided that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 345) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 345

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, February 16, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day